
SACRAMENTO RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

c/o California Department of Water Resources
2440 Main Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080



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SRCA NOTES

July, 2000

NON-PROFIT FORMATION MOVING FORWARD

As you can tell by our masthead, we've changed! The Non-Profit Organization(NPO) that has been envisioned by the participants of the SB1086 program is in the process of becoming a reality. The first organizational meetings have been held, officers elected, and the process of becoming a public, non-profit (501c-3) organization is on the way. Our official title is: Sacramento River Conservation Area, Inc. (SRCA).

While many have slightly different visions of what we will do and how we will do it, it remains clear that the organization will provide a broad forum by which to review and discuss proposed projects along the River. The Handbook provides guidelines for habitat restoration and other activities. It advocates a local planning process that brings together all affected parties to make sure that project impacts, from restoration to flood control, don't create problems for neighbors or anyone with an interest on the River.

With the new organization, of course, come new responsibilities. First of these are to the agencies that have committed, through their signing of the MOA, to coordinate their activities and efforts through the SRCA. It is imperative that the Board of Directors and the Technical Committee have an opportunity to review, comment, and have some part in determining the direction of activities sponsored by those agencies. For Board members, the responsibility lies with understanding the requirements and direction that Congress and the Legislature have placed in the hands of the agencies. Some of the programs that agencies administer are not popular at the local level, but by law, must be carried forward. Members of the Board provide an important perspective to local conditions and concerns, and therefore can impact the administration of those programs. They must, though, also help create a forum that gives a balance to the process of coordinating these activities. The people in the area probably have the greatest responsibility by participating in the process. Their insight is invaluable to the process, particularly to site-specific planning, for they know the history and the nuances of the area. All involved have a responsibility to the future. A future where agriculture, the environment, and public uses are all recognized and work together to coordinate efforts along California's greatest waterway, the Sacramento River.

FEARS OF PUBLIC ACCESS LOSS

Recent rumors that the Sacramento River Conservation Area program is advocating restriction of public access along the Sacramento River are totally false. Acquisition of lands along the River by various agencies and entities are funded through various acts of Congress, the Legislature, and recent voter approved Bond Acts. As those entities acquire land, they are required to develop a management plan that determines whether public use may be restricted or not on those lands. While they are determining the use of those lands through public hearings and input, they may post them until the final Management Plan is adopted. Our program provides a forum by which those concerns can be brought to the appropriate agencies for discussion. The SRCA is a public non-profit entity that is not a government agency and is non-regulatory. We advocate a planning process that brings everyone to the table to try to prevent or reduce impacts to all stakeholders.

A MYSTERY EXISTS

One of the landowner members of the SRCA Board has noticed some recent willow plantings on sand bars along the River below Butte City. We have contacted the Dept. of Fish & Game, the Reclamation Board, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and The Nature Conservancy; all of which have no knowledge of the plantings. They are pretty small and may be on private land, but curiosity prevails- anyone got any ideas?

BOARD MEETING SET FOR JULY

The SRCA Board of Directors have set the fourth Thursday of each month as their regular meeting date. At this time they are rotating the meeting places to each of the counties involved. On July 27, the meeting will be held at the Red Bluff Community Center in Red Bluff at 6:30 pm. On the agenda will be a presentation by Howard Hutchison from the Arizona/New Mexico Coalition of Governments and also a review of CalFed and the CVPIA restoration programs. The Ad Hoc Committee for the formation of the Technical Advisory Committee will present their recommendation to the Board. The Technical Committee will be an open forum to provide technical and scientific support for the Board and identify potential solutions that can gain maximum support

SACRAMENTO RIVER CONSERVATION AREA BOARD MEMBERS

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